

Murray History Advisory Board
Minutes for August 22, 2017

Attendance: Rebecca Santa Cruz, Wendy DeMann, Wendy Parsons Baker, Sara Roach, Laurel Shepard, Mildred Horton, Mary Ann Kirk (staff).

1. Minutes for June 27, 2017 were approved as written. New board member, Laurel Shepard, was introduced. We are still looking for a board member in the southwest corner of the city.
2. Home tour was successful with between 40-50 people attending. Mary Ann suggested keeping the summer tours in July focused on home, May Heritage tours focused on streets and neighborhoods and museum tours in September if new exhibits are available.
3. The Murray Mansion will be in city hands in September. The city is exploring use and timing. They have not fully committed to using it as a museum. Rebecca felt that it is shortsighted not to see the potential for this site. It could be a historic destination site which does not currently exist in Murray. Mary Ann explained some are concerned about ADA access. We will be taking a tour of the building with city officials, the city building official, and state historic architect, Don Hartley, with the intent to determine current condition and what issues need to be addressed for public access. He can also discuss variations in code for historic buildings. The building does have a ramp in the back. Rebecca felt this should not be an insurmountable obstacle. There may be other ways to provide access to the upper floors. Sara said the ramp might be adjusted to access the 2nd floor. The tours could be adjusted if someone could not handle the stairs or a video could be produced that shows the 2nd floor. The 2nd floor could also be used for office and storage space. It is possible an elevator or lift could be used. Mary Ann asked Wendy and Sara to attend the tour. Other board members are welcome.

Other city officials are concerned about the historic interest as a museum and focusing solely on the “home” itself. Board members liked the idea of developing themes in each room that illustrate different topics related to former owners which include both the Cahoons (businessman) and the Paynes (pastor of Baptist Church). These themes could change periodically to create interest. It might include home living but also topics such as brickmaking, smelter industry, water and power development, local businesses, WW II service projects, religious groups - all topics related to these former owners. Laurel and Rebecca described historic sites that use the historic fabric blended with other exhibits and events to encourage patrons and potential revenue. Wendy P asked if the city was planning on renting the Baptist church for events. She felt this could be a revenue maker. Mary Ann said the ballroom in the Mansion could also be rented for other events but that does require additional staffing and funding. Jennifer expressed concerns about the facility becoming more of a rental unit rather than a museum. Mary Ann suggested the museum and rental aspect could be blended. The two key questions (1) are what plans they have to protect the building while deciding use. And (2) if it is not used for the museum, where do they plan to put the museum as a new city hall is built. Mary Ann felt the Chamber of Commerce may be a good temporary or permanent tenant for either the mansion or the chapel.

4. A demo request was reviewed for 4918 Poplar which is on the register. We do have documentation for the building. Wendy DeMann suggested we keep some of the brick in case brick is needed for the mansion. Mary Ann suggested a professional look at the condition of the brick. She thought any addition to the mansion would be better off using new brick. Sara noted that any addition should use different material because national register requirements suggest the original structure be distinguishable from any addition so matching brick is not necessary. Board members thought it might be a good idea just in case they decide to build an outbuilding.

The Board also reviewed a potential demo for 140 W 5325 South. The formal request has not come through yet but the developers have contacted her. We have photo documentation so history requirements are complete if and when that request is submitted.

Other historic buildings in the neighborhood will also be demolished on Poplar, 4th and 5th Avenues. Squatters are using the vacant buildings and city officials are worried about fires. Wendy P and Laurel expressed concern about all the historic buildings that are being demolished. Wendy P felt it is even more frustrating when plans for future

use have not been decided. Laurel felt that Murray was losing its identity. Board members shared that concern. They were very sad to see the Howe home go down this week.

5. We are planning a film festival on October 28 at the Murray Theater. We are limiting attendance to no more than 100 per show to stay within code. The high school film students are making Halloween “shorts.” We will combine that with our historic “Fire” melodrama video along with an art show featuring Matt Madsen, a well-known former artist from Murray. Rebecca said that one of the SLC home tours featured a former owner of the Murray Theater. Mary Ann will follow up with Kirk Huffacker.
6. Staff is taking down the MHS exhibits in city hall this week and will be designing exhibits about past and present buildings in Murray.
7. Mary Ann explained the accession and deaccession process for museum objects. The board must approve any deaccessions. The museum accession committee has accepted a collection from former school superintendent Glen Oldroyd. It includes several yearbooks with his name on it. We have some yearbook duplicates. There has been some concern about storage space. Jennifer suggested she examine their condition and report back. After some discussion, board members decided to keep the duplicates so the Oldroyd collection can be protected for exhibits and the other yearbooks can be used for research. Jennifer also noted that someone wanted to buy a yearbook if we had a duplicate. Mary Ann said our policy states that objects deaccessioned should be offered to other agencies first. The school district already has copies at the high school and the district office. The State Archives are looking for yearbooks. If no one wants an object (including the original donor) and it will be discarded, then we might be able to offer it to the public.